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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and pursuant to our recent letters concerning Israeli acts of aggression and movements in southern Lebanon, I hereby inform you of the latest developments in this respect.

Over the past two days, Israel has reinforced its positions in southern Lebanon by amassing approximately 2,000 troops, supported by 100 military vehicles, including 40 Merkava tanks and 40 M-113 personnel carriers. They crossed the border and established a command centre at the village of Kfarhuna near the town of Jezzine. These Israeli movements have given rise to a state of alarm and tension in the area in particular and in Lebanon in general.

Similarly, on 22 May 1991, the Israeli forces shelled the village of Shakra adjacent to the so-called "security zone". This caused the deaths of two women, Inaya and Dalal al-Khatib, and their mother was badly wounded.

The Lebanese Government once again deplores and condemns these grave Israeli acts of aggression and practices, and considers them a flagrant act of interference aimed at obstructing the efforts towards solution and salvation being pursued [by the Lebanese Government] in order to unify the country and extend its authority to all Lebanese territory.

This latest Israeli escalation on Lebanese territory, in particular at this juncture, calls for international action by the Security Council - and

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* A/46/50.

especially by the five permanent members - to put an end to this blatantly aggressive policy and to implement resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory and to restore southern Lebanon as an area of peace and security under the authority of the Lebanese State and with the assistance of the international forces.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative